EAC-CPF – DATES

UPDATE OF REPORT PRESTENTED TO THE EAC-CPF SUBTEAM, TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENCODED ARCHIVAL STANDARDS, AUSTIN, TEXAS, 1 AUGUST 2019

ISSUE - <DATE>: BEST PRACTICE #34

https://github.com/SAA-SDT/eac-cpf-schema/issues/34

Find and describe best practice for uncertain dates in <date>, <toDate>, <fromDate>.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT OPTIONS IN EAC-CPF?

In EAC-CPF the elements <date>, <toDate> and <fromDate> can all use the @notAfter and @notBefore attributes to give the latest and/or earliest possible dates for uncertain dates.

OUTCOMES

1. Add optional @certainty attribute (from EAD3) to <date>, <fromDate> and <toDate>

       Example:

       <dateRange>

              <fromDate standardDate="1762" certainty="circa">c.1762</fromDate>

              <toDate standardDate="1814" certainty="circa">c.1814</toDate>

       </dateRange>

2. Allow for the optional use of EDTF (https://www.loc.gov/standards/datetime/edtf.html) integrated in ISO 8601-2019, to qualify a date as uncertain (?), approximate (~) and uncertain and approximate (%).

       Example:

       <dateRange>

              <fromDate standardDate="1762?">c.1762</fromDate>

              <toDate standardDate="1814?">c.1814</toDate>

       </dateRange>

ISSUE - <DATERANGE>: BEST PRACTICE #32

Describe best practice for unknown end dates in <toDate> within <dateRange>.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT OPTIONS IN EAC-CPF?

EAC-CPF includes the <dateRange> element for wrapping <fromDate> and <toDate> to express a date range. It is not mandatory to include both a <fromDate> and a <toDate>.

The EAC-CPF Tag Library previously listed <fromDate> and <toDate> as mandatory elements within date range. This has already been updated to match the schema which lists them as optional elements, however we need to provide better examples. A comment in the GitHub issue suggests that, while it cannot be formally enforced, the Tag Library need to express that best practice is to include one or both of <fromDate> or <toDate> within <dateRange>.

The current EAC-CPF 'Description and Usage' statement in the Tag Library does not make reference to incomplete date ranges:

> *"A generic element that expresses inclusive dates of an event in the history of, or a relationship with, the person, family, or corporate body being described in the EAC-CPF instance. <dateRange> contains <fromDate> and <toDate> child elements. If the event or relationship has a single date use the <date> element, while more complex dates (combining single dates and date ranges) can be expressed in <dateSet>.*
>
> *The localType attribute can be used to supply a more specific characterization of the date."*

The descriptions of the <fromDate> and <toDate> elements include a statement that they may be omitted if unknown, but this is not clear at the <dateRange> level.

OUTCOMES

1. Update 'Description and Usage' section of EAC-CPF Tag Library to include information about date ranges with either no start date or no end date. It should state that it is expected that a <dateRange> will have at least one of <fromDate> or <toDate>, but that one or other may be omitted if the information is not known.

2. Add optional @status attribute to indicate where dates are unknown or ongoing.

Examples:

```
<dateRange>

        <fromDate status="unknown" />

        <toDate standardDate="1832-03-29">29 March 1832</toDate>

</dateRange>
```

```xml
<dateRange>

        <fromDate standardDate="1762-09-19">19 September 1762</fromDate>

        <toDate status="unknown" />

</dateRange>


<dateRange>

        <fromDate standardDate="1853">1853</fromDate>

        <toDate status="ongoing" />

</dateRange>
```